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KINGSTON ONTARIO CANADA

A P R O P E R
R E P L Y

To a late infamous and scurrilous

L I B E L,

I N T I T L E D,

*A CONGRATULATORY LETTER to
a certain Right Honourable
Person upon his late Disap-
pointment.*

Men of all Sorts take a Pride to gird at ME.
FALSTAFF.



L O N D O N :

Printed for J. ROBINSON, at the *Golden-
Lion*, in *Ludgate-Street*, 1743.

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A P R O P E R
R E P L Y

To a late

Infamous LIBEL, &c.

My L----

Y O U R L---p's Letter is far
from giving me an Opi-
nion *different* in the least
from what I had of you before ;
it abounds with that *Ill-nature*
and that *abusive Wit* for which
you have been always famous, the
World gave it to *you* as soon as
they *read* it, and did Justice to
you, by believing most firmly
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what you assert in the first Paragraph, that you have as much *real Friendship* for the *Person* to whom it is *addressed*, as you *can have for any Body*.

There was also no Sort of Doubt entertained as to your being very well pleased at the R. H. Person's *Disappointment*, and so no doubt were *all of your Party*. Men of quick Wit and warm Passions are apt to measure other Peoples *Tempers* by their *own*, and to fancy that *Disappointments* must be absolutely *intolerable*, because they are *not* able to *bear* them. But from the known *Calmness* and *Moderation* of the noble Person's Disposition, to whom you address your *scurrilous Letter*, the
 thinking

thinking Part of Mankind were satisfied that nothing could give him *Concern* or *Disquiet* in relation to that *Refusal*, but the Part he took in the *Disappointment* of his *Country* and his *Countrymen*.

He knew very well what *malicious People* would say when he was first mentioned for that *Post*, but he knew likewise what they had *already said*; and as there was no great fear, that in all the Treasury of *Billingsgate*, they should find *fouler Language* than they had employed *before*, he gave himself *little Concern*, as in truth he had but very *little Reason*, for what they *might say* on this Occasion.

In respect to his *Declarations*, which perhaps it may be true, were both *frequent* and *publick*, that he would *never accept of any Place*, these ought always to be understood with a *saving* of the *Duty* he owed to his *Country*. In the primitive Times eminent Churchmen were *far* from *desiring* Bishopricks, and even when they were offered them, *refused them* sincerely ; yet for the Sake of the *Church* they *accepted* that very Dignity which they *sought* not for their *own*. He thought therefore, and who should say that he *thought amiss* ; he was bound as a *good Patriot* to do as much for the *State*, as the most *pious Priest* would do for the *Church*.

Church. He thought, in short, that the *People* had a Right to *avail* themselves of *his Service*.

He knew, as who could know it *better*, the Integrity, Uprightness, and Sincerity of his own Heart ; he knew, what indeed all the World knows, that he possessed, in the most eminent Degree, that *Virtue* which Parties, who agree in nothing else, *admit* to be the *properest Qualification* for a *Person* in that high *Station*, I mean *Frugality*, which never was *denied him* by his Enemies ; and as he meant to take the *same Care* of the *Publick*, as he does of his *private Revenues*, he thought that if he had not expressed a Willingness to *accept* of this *Post*, he had
acted

acted like a *Traytor* to his *King*,
and an *Enemy* to his *Country*.

He was fully sensible of the Difficulties and Dangers, which must have attended his *Discharge* of that *weighty Employment*. He knew how strong the *Resentment* run of *both Parties*, but he knew at the same Time his *own Conduct* to be so *right*, that he apprehended no *ill Consequences* from the *Anger* of either : He had joined with the *Tories* when he found them an *Opposition* acting upon *Whig Principles*, he left them when they became a *Faction* by acting upon *their own* : He knew the *Suspensions* of the *Whigs*, but the Rectitude of his *own Mind*, would never suffer him to *suspect*,
that

that their *Ingratitude* would rise so high as to *sacrifice* the Man who had *saved them* : He fought a Place with a View only to *serve* the *Nation*, for which, with a steady Resolution, he will be always ready to *hazard* his *Honours* and his *Fortune*.

When these Considerations are well weighed, he has Reason to think that his *Friends* will heartily *congratulate* him at present on his *happy Escape* from so much Trouble and Danger ; and he makes no question, but *in Time* even his *Enemies* will *condole* his *Country*, upon *what* makes your L---p so merry, this *great Disappointment*.

It

It was a Truth known not to *him* only, but to *you* and to all the World, that *Conferences* in a certain *Closet*, with whatever *Honour* they were *attended*, had likewise some *uneasy Circumstances*. He imagines therefore that a Person so *easy* in his *private Station*, could not well be suspected of desiring to enter on a *publick Character*, embarrassed with so many and so great *Difficulties*, from any other Motive than that of *publick Spirit*. As this inclined him to *risque* whatever *Warmth* might be expressed by the *great Person* who presides there, so he was willing to hope that the known *Mildness* of his *own Temper* would have opened to him some Opportunities

tunities of removing those *Prejudices* which might be entertained of him from *Misrepresentations*, and enable him to vindicate *any Part* of his *Conduct*, which might have afforded a Handle to such *malicious Persons*, as the *Writer* of this *Letter*, to place him in a Light in which he ought not to *stand*. Full of these Hopes he flattered himself, that though at his *Entrance* on this *Post*, he might not be a *personal Favourite*, yet in *Process* of *Time*, and by a *Series* of *Services*, he might have attained to a more *noble Character* than that of being an *useful M--r*.

I readily believe your L---ship, when you say you should be *overjoy'd* to escape *Trouble*. All who

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know what a Mixture of *Vivacity* and *Indolence* there is in your *Temper*, will readily think it *true*, and upon this I venture to *congratulate* you, since I think there is no *great Likelihood* of your being *forced* into *Business*; and I dare assure you, that if it *be* in the Person's *Power* who you have *libelled* to *prevent* it, no such *Hardship* shall be put upon you; but you shall have always *Leisure* and *Matter* enough to *employ* your *Wit* and your *Pen* in such *pretty Epistles*.

But in the Name of wonder, how came you to mention the *Libels* of *past Ages* and the *present*? Is not the former your *peculiar Kind of Learning*, and
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is not all your *Writing Reputation* owing to the *latter*? If the Person you *libel* was the *Patron*, you are undoubtedly the *Author* of a *Multitude* of *Papers* in the *Craftsman*. At least this was the *Opinion* of the *World*, who, whenever they saw a *Paper* full of *Sneer*, and *void* of *Argument*, immediately gave it to *you*. There is therefore no doubt that, by altering a *few* of those *Papers* in a very *few* *Places*, you might be able to suit them, so as to make them serve *afresh* for any *Ministry*; and in that, I think, a great *Excellency* lies, since in all human *Probability*, you will be upon *bad Terms* with *all*. But as for *his part* whom you *abused*, he is *Proof* against *every Libel*, even

againſt yours. Permit me however to obſerve *one* Thing to you, which is this, that if Men are to be *libelled* upon *Diſappointments* of this Sort, they will be fonder of *Places* than ever, becauſe if they are to be *abused* whether *in* or *out*, the former is undoubtedly the *better Situation* of the *two*.

As to C----t, his *Sincerity* may be of the *ſame Value* with your *Good-nature*, and *his Letter* and *yours* ought perhaps to be read the *ſame Way*. But who told you that he was *trusted*? Tho' there might be a *Diſappointment* in the *Thing*, yet the *Perſon* you *aim* at, might not be *diſappointed* in *him*; for as you muſt know that there are ſome *Sort* of *People* in
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the World, from whom one is never to expect a *good Word*, so there are *others* from whom *good Words* are *all* that is to be *expected*. Of which *two* Sorts of People *your* L---p and the noble L----- you have mentioned, are *most illustrious Instances*.

We are now to enter into the right honourable Person's *private Life*; in respect to which, give me leave to observe, that you are the most *incompetent Judge* in the *World*, because *you* and *he* are of the most *different Tempers*; one *warm, active, and impatient*, the other *cool, indolent*, but withal remarkably *steady*; you a *Squanderer*, he an *Oeconomist*; you always in the *Vapours*, from
your

your own *Mismanagement* in *private Life*, and thence continually out of *Humour* in your *publick Character* ; he, on the contrary, so *happy* from his own *right Management* of his *private Fortune*, that he *is*, and *must be* always concerned in *Interest* to prevent *publick Confusion*.

It is no wonder that a *Person* thus utterly unqualified to *judge* of the *other Person's Actions*, and at the same Time burning with an *impatient Desire* of *blackening* every *little Circumstance* of his *Conduct*, should write as *you do*. What was there in his *Diversions* at *Richmond*, that could provoke any other Man's *Satyr* ? He diverted himself there in a *frugal* Way,

Way, because he hates *expensive Diversions* ; you, on the contrary, have diverted yourself *so long*, at so monstrous an *Expence*, that having *jaded* your *Body*, worn out your *Fortune*, and set your *Spirits* into a *high Fret*, the only *Diversion* you can now take, is in *writing* such *malicious Letters* as these. As to his *Conversations* with Mr. O----d, what *Harm* was there in them ? You will inquire immediately, What *Good* was there in them ? Why, really, a great deal : They turned, generally speaking, on *Points of Law*, the Nature of *Conveyances*, the *Value of Securities*, the Means of *settling Estates*, so as to prevent there being ever *torn* from a *Family*, and the Means of *breaking* such
Settlements

Settlements when made by *other People*. This afforded the *one* an Opportunity of *shewing* his *great Knowledge*, and gave the *other* occasion to turn his *Discourse* on such *Topicks* as derived to him all the *Benefits* of that *prodigious Knowledge*, without being a *Penny* out of *Pocket* for his *Opinion*. But, seriously, the *Entertainments* at *Richmond* were truly worthy of a *Patriot*; there you might have seen the *richest Man* in *England*, living, in all *Respects*, like a *private Country Gentleman*, the ablest of our *political Orators* amusing himself with *merry Jokes* in a familiar *Conversation*, and the *Person* supposed to be struggling for the *P-----M-----ship*, sitting a quiet *Spectator*.

Spectator of a *Cricket-Match* on the *Green*. What *Moderation*, what *Modesty*, what a *Mixture* of *Ambition* and *Indolence* was there !

You are certainly much *exhausted*, when you threw into your *Libel* his spending now and then a *Summer* at a *Friend's House*, with that *pitiful Reflection* of setting up again his *old Trade* with his *Poulterer*. A Man that loves *shooting*, must naturally like *living* sometimes *here*, sometimes *there* ; and the very *Nature* of his *Exercise*, shews sufficiently that he could create *no great Expence* wherever he *lived*. Lord L---ll might indeed find *fault* with *this*, because for a *Summer*

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or *two* he was at the *Charge* of *Powder* and *Shot*, and might have suggested a *Draught* upon the *Poulterer* to be a *proper Satisfaction* ; but what have you *to do* with that ? or with any other of his *innocent Recreations* ? You have a *Right* to chose your own *Pleasures*, and have exercised that *Right pretty freely* ; but you have none to dictate to *him*. And here again let me remark that *Opposition* in your *Characters*, which is the *true Source* of all your *Spleen*, I believe it would puzzle a *Bank Accomptant* to determine whether you *lavish*, or he *saves*, most in a *Summer*.

Grants

Grants from the *Crown*, and *Lottery Tickets*, are both as much out of *your Way* as they are in *his*; and this it was that put those *Objections* in your *Head*; but it is one thing to have a *Power* of *commanding* such Favours when they are *not wanted*, and another to *want them*, and not have any *Title* to *command them*; and here, as in most other Cases, though the *Wit* is on *your Side*, the *Wisdom* lies on *his*.

You are in the *right* to applaud the *social Pleasures* of a *private Life*, and the *Joys* resulting from the *prudent Management* of a *Family*, because you *taste all this at Home*. But

when you condescended to mention a *serene* C----s, was not a certain *stupid* C-----s in your *Head*? And then again, this *immense Fortune* of another Man's, seems to *embarrass* you as much as your *own*. If a Lady is so *kind* as to bequeath a Gentleman a *considerable Estate* out of pure Gratitude for the *Services* done her, would you have him *refuse* it? If a *Demand*, that was made without either *Proof* or *Probability*, was not *complied* with, do you call it an *Injury*? Or the *Estate* which you say was *given back*, can you *deny* that it has fallen into *worse Hands* since? Alas! alas! what an *Age* do we live in, when a *Man* of *Wit*, not content with *flighting com-*
mon

more Sense and Oeconomy in his own Way of *living*, thinks he has just Grounds to be angry with *Prudence* and *right Management* in another Man's. Where is the *Justice*, where the *Wisdom*, where the *Honour* of such kind of Reflections? Consider this, and be rather ashamed for *yourself* than *him*.

As to an *independent Station*, your *Letter* is the strongest Proof that the Man you are so *angry with* enjoys it. This, whatever your *pregnant Parts* may enable you to *suggest*, is a most *comfortable* Thing: As he *will*, so it is certain he *may* do what he *pleases*. If he *agrees* with a *Court*, he will always be *considered by* *them* ;

them ; if he *disagrees* with a *Court*, his *Loss* will be always *regretted*. Is such a *State* contemptible ? Is it like to be *unenvied* ? Will it be *envied* only by the *meanest of Men* ? What then must be *said* or *thought* of the *Man* whose *Envy* put him upon writing *such a Letter* ?

Your *Sneer* as to not *attending* great *Employments*, is very *arch* ; but, with your good leave, *Non-Attendance* is a strong Proof that a Man is not over-heated by *Ambition*, or the *Love* of *Power* : And if the *publick Business* does not suffer by such a *Neglect*, it does not seem to merit the *Aspersions* you have thrown in your *Letter*. A Man who does not
think

think the *Court* always in the *Right*, or the *Opposition* always in the *Wrong*, will with *disinterested People* as soon pass for a *Patriot*, as one who has a *Talent* of *ridiculing* other Folks in his *Speeches*, as he has of *rendering* himself *ridiculous* by his *Actions*.

As to the Number of *his Friends*, which you would insinuate to be but *few*, I dare say he may *poll* them against *yours*, and be a *Gainer* upon *any Occasion*. But if there be *any Truth* in what is suggested in another *Part* of your *Letter*, the *Sneer* in this *Part* must be *absolutely groundless* : For if *him* you would *libel* is such a *Man* as you elsewhere describe him, *fond of Coun-*
try

try Diversions, addicted to the frugal Management of a very great Estate, and somewhat careless of the highest Honours that a Subject can possess, it is very likely that, if ever he pretended to such a Post, it was out of mere Regard for his Friends ; your very Letter shews that he could have no other Motive. Your Raillery therefore on this Subject is all thrown away, and your only Excuse must be, that as a great Wit you may be allowed to have a short Memory, and no great Strength of Judgment.

You are pleased to give him a little good Advice as to what he ought to say to his Friends upon this Occasion ; but in truth I think
that

that might have *been spared*, since I dare say all who know *you both* will allow, that on any *serious Subject* (as you admit this to be) he has as *much to say* for himself as *you have* with *all your Parts*. His *Friends* and *himself* will behave in *Consequence* of this *Affair* like *Men of Steadiness and Weight* ; there will, I dare say, appear, no *Starts of Passion*, no *hasty revolting* from what they before *maintained*, no *inconsistent Reproaches*, on account of what at the *Bottom* is perhaps *really considered* as a *Favour* rather than an *Injury*.

The next *Paragraph* of your *Letter* belongs to *another Man* with whom you were many Years

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in *close Connexion*, and to his *Re-sentments* I leave it. You treat him as a Man *lost* in *Capacity*, as well as *Sincerity*, and yet you give him the *greatest Weight*, where, for the *Sake* of your *Country*, you ought to wish he *had none at all* : You sport with *that Name* which ought to be mentioned with *Awe* by every good *Subject*, and who, independant of every other *Consideration*, might claim a *peculiar Share* of *Defe-rence* from *one* he once honoured, with his *private Friendship* : But you *run at all*, and what Wonder ? Your *Spleen* has *run away* with *you*, and conscious you are like *never to be great*, the sole Resource of your *Wit* is *lessening* other Men.

I am now come to the *End* of a very tedious Task, imposed by a very *trifling Performance*. You had a mind to give the *World* an *Instance* of your *boasted Abilities* in *Writing*, and therefore you will naturally pardon a *Passion* of the *like Kind* in *me*, perhaps to little Purpose in *both*. I wonder you should chuse to talk of *Sirnames*, since I am much at a *Loss* to *guess* what of that Kind your own *Wit* and *Vanity* put together, could find *out* for *yourself*. Where are your *Triumphs* in *State*, or in *War*? when were you, when *are* you like to be *victorious*? who was ever *overcome* by you? But a Man of your *Learning* must know, that the
Romans

Romans sometimes borrowed *Sir-*
names, or rather *Nicknames*, from
 their Defects. *Scipio*, if I am
 rightly informed, signifies no more
 than *a Staff*, and *Cicero* a *Chick*
Pea: In this Sense you might,
 from the most notorious of your
great Abilities, be stiled *SCURRA*,
 which I leave you to *trans-*
late, with this additional Memo-
 randum, That whatever in your
great Goodness you are pleased to
think of another Person, the World
 in general esteems you to be at
 ONCE THE WITTIEST AND THE
 WEAKEST OF MEN, and much
good may do you with such a Cha-
racter.

I am,

My L---

Your obliged humble Servant.

